

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A process for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample of an egg which process comprises:

(i) contacting the sample of an egg wherein the egg is not coagulated with a test composition comprising a test microorganism suitable for being used in a method for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue;

(ii) inactivating ~~any a~~ compound ~~naturally~~ present in the uncoagulated egg sample that is capable of inhibiting growth of the test microorganism leading to [[a]] false positive results absent said inactivating step by heating the contacted uncoagulated egg sample and test composition for a sufficient time interval to inactivate said ~~any~~ compound without inactivating the antimicrobial residue to be detected; and followed by

(iii) incubating the contacted sample and test composition, to determine whether microbial growth occurs, whereby the absence of microbial growth indicates the presence of at least one antimicrobial residue, and the presence of microbial growth indicates the absence of any antimicrobial residue.

2. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 70°C to 100°C.

3. (previously presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 75°C to 85°C.

4. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said heating is from 2 to 20 minutes.

5. (previously presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein said heating is from 10 to 15 minutes.

6. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the test composition comprises the test microorganism, nutrients and one or more indicators of microbial growth present in an agar medium.

Claims 7-11 (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibiting microbial growth is lysozyme.

13. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the uncoagulated egg sample is homogenized prior to step (i).